Construction Work Projects
With our mid year volunteer construction projects underway in partnership with Reach Out Volunteers great progress is being made on the second stage of the micro community. There are now 5 houses finished with construction of the 6th underway now and due to be finished in just over a weeks time. Gardens are also taking shape, but planting of farming crops will be delayed as rainy season is about to start.
We have constructed a new covered area for the bikes and plan to move the arts and crafts building in the coming weeks to make room for a small make shift football pitch that the children can play on during wet season when the main football pitch will be underwater.

Farming
Although most of the planting of farming crops cannot be done until after rainy season, we have harvested the gourds and zucchinis and are now replanting morning glory and lemongrass as both are hardy plants which can withstand the heavy rains and grow well in wet conditions.
Each of the grades are responsible for tending to their crops at SHCC and next month they will replicating what they have learnt in their own homes by planting both morning glory and lemongrass.

Community work
Our Sunday community work days this month have consisted of constructing a new short cut road into the school and improving other roads in preparation of the coming wet season. We have also drained the pond on the new land at the back of the school and are now digging and transporting dirt from here to help raise the land for the foundations of the houses in the micro community. The old pond we plan to make into a replica of the Tonle Sap, to assist in teaching the children about the Tonle Sap and what it provides for the province, although only 10km away many children don’t even know it exists let alone what is there. It will also become our fish farm.

Free Water
SHCC now has access to clean filtered water for the students. Each day we receive free 20L containers of water through a partnership with the nearby State school, one container for each classroom and also our common areas. This is great news for us, as now all children have access to clean water, greatly decreasing the likelihood of illness and disease.

Football
After the recent success of our football teams in the Siem Reap Junior Football Championship and as there is now a long break before competition recommences, we decided to take the teams to Battambang last Sunday to compete against other NGO teams. It was a long day, starting at 5am and finishing at 10pm, and unfortunately rained for most of it. But the teams had a great time and came away with one win, a draw and two loses.
We now have an expatriate football coach working with the teams a couple of times a week, and progress can already be seen after just two sessions! But more importantly the kids are loving it and learning a lot of new skills.
SHCC News
May 2013

**SHCC now has Tax Deductibility in Australia!**
Following on from gaining charity status and tax deductibility in New Zealand in 2010. In partnership with Rotary Queensland we now have tax exemption status for donations made from Australia!
This is great news for all our Australian supporters as it means you now get something back for your generosity in supporting SHCC. However, we need to point out SHCC is not an Australian registered charity but through a recent approval process donations originating from Australian individuals or companies are now eligible for a tax exemptions. Note donations coming through combined fundraising efforts will not be eligible.
To find out more about this, whether your donations may be eligible and how to go about making tax deductible donations please contact Joni.

**Restructure Update**
The restructure that commenced last month is going well. There have been a lot of changes; from curriculum and grade changes to staff and programming changes. But both staff and students are settling in well and the changes are proving very positive.
We are still running on a skeleton staff, finding replacements has been difficult. So its all hands on deck as changes are implemented, training is carried out and volunteers arrive. Everyone is doing abit of everything at the moment as we try to cover all the classes as well as move all the students from SHCC 2 over to the main campus.
Although the days are very long, it has been fun and a great team building exercise! The 12 staff that remained after the restructure are incredibly committed and passionate about moving SHCC forward. It is great to see everyone working together so well for the community.

As of two weeks ago we have had 4 more fulltime teachers join us (these are previous staff who are currently going through training). So soon we will have 16 fulltime staff. We hope to have all 27 positions filled in the next few months.

Salary increases for staff come into effect next month, so this is very good news for everyone.

A big thank you to everyone that has donated or fundraised, we are more than half way to achieving our funding targets for school operations in 2013 and almost half way to achieving the university scholarship scheme target for 2013/2014!